

Application No. 10/559,097
Amendment dated July 22, 2008
In Reply to Office Action of January 24, 2008
Attorney Docket No. 4559-053584

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

The present invention concerns a method for improving plant growth characteristics, comprising increasing, in a monocotyledonous plant, expression of a nucleic acid encoding an NHX protein and/or increasing activity of an NHX protein, wherein the ~~said~~ plant is grown under non-salt stress conditions.